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SOUTH MOLTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1953.

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health.

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113, East Street.

South Molton,

May, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the

South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Loosemore and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District for the year 1953.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health.


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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the year ending December 31st, 1953.

LIST OF STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)
Medical Officer of Health.

Mrs. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

Whole-time Officer:—

W. H. KARSLAKE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

A. J. C. NEX, M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Miss M. LOCK, Clerk.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	117,432
Population	9,063
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,855
Rateable Value	£30,500
Sum represented by a penny rate	£127

Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	66	64	130
Illegitimate	0	3	3
			133
Rate per 1,000 population 14.6			
	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			1
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births 7.4			
	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	50	44	94
Death Rate per 1,000 population 10.3			

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Males	Females	Total
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes ...	0	0	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			4
Rate per 1,000 Live Births 30.0			

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa under 2 years of age ...	0

Local Deaths over 65 years of age.

65—69	11	85—89	8
70—74	10	90—94	3
75—79	22	95—100	1
80—84	14		

Total ... 69

Below I append a Table showing the comparative figures for South Molton Rural District and England and Wales.

The Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the area comparability factors.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
South Molton R.D. ...	16.7	.11	9.12	30	.0
England and Wales ...	15.5	.35	11.4	26.8	1.1

Causes of Deaths during the year 1953.

	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	0	1
Other Infective Disease	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach ...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	7	13
Coronary Disease	8	1
Other Heart Diseases	10	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3
Influenza	1	4
Pneumonia	2	0
Bronchitis	3	1
Gastritis Enteritis	2	1
Nephritis	3	0
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	0
Other defined and ill defined Diseases ...	3	5
Accident	0	1
Suicide	1	0
Homicide Operations of War	1	0
	50	44

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1953.
(in age groups excluding Tuberculosis)

Age years	Measles M	Measles F	Whooping Cough M	Whooping Cough F	Pneumonia M	Pneumonia F
0—1 ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
1—2 ...	8	4	1	2	—	—
2—3 ...	4	7	—	1	—	—
3—4 ...	4	8	2	3	—	1
4—5 ...	9	8	—	2	—	—
5—10 ...	69	56	13	4	—	—
10—15 ...	14	21	2	—	—	—
15—20 ...	5	4	—	—	—	—
20—25 ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
25—30 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
30—40 ...	6	2	—	—	—	1
40—50 ...	2	1	—	3	—	—
62 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
63 ...	—	—	—	—	2	—
67 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
83 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	127	112	18	16	3	3

Below is appended a Table showing the distribution of Infectious Diseases notified in 1953 (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia
Bishopsnympton ...	56	—	—
Burrington ...	8	—	—
Charles ...	4	2	—
Chittlehamholt ...	14	—	—
Chittlehampton ...	37	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	—	12	—
East Anstey ...	11	—	1
East Buckland ...	1	3	—
Filleigh ...	1	—	—
Georgenympton ...	3	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	1	—	—
Knowstone ...	7	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	5	4	—
Meshaw ...	2	—	1
Molland ...	34	4	1
North Molton ...	7	1	1
Rackenford ...	5	4	—
Rose Ash ...	10	1	—
Twitchen ...	2	—	—
Warkleigh ...	14	—	—
West Anstey ...	5	—	1
West Buckland ...	—	—	—
Witheridge ...	11	2	1
Worlington ...	2	—	—
	240	33	6

New Cases of Tuberculosis during the year 1953.

	Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary	
Age years	M	F		M	F
5	1	—		—	—
38	—	1		—	—
55	—	1		—	—
	1	2	Total 3	0	0

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple has 29 beds.

2. MATERNITY CASES.

The Devon County Council are continuing to act as they did in 1949 as agents of the Regional Hospital Board until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

There is also a ward of 12 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

3. ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the North Devon Isolation Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford. The latter is of recent construction and well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases.

There are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious Cases.

A separate block for early tuberculosis cases from North Devon is also available at this Hospital.

4. SMALL POX.

The Small Pox Hospital, to which cases of Small Pox will be sent is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

5. GENERAL.

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton serves this area. There are 7 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

6. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Chest Clinics.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, below is a table giving days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9. 0 a.m. - 1. 0 p.m. 2. 0 p.m. - 4. 0 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursday	9. 0 a.m. - 1. 0 p.m. 2. 0 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	
Friday	9. 0 a.m. - 1. 0 p.m. 2. 0 p.m. - 4. 0 p.m.	A.P. Refills

V.D. Clinic.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple in the Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions.

Females	Monday 4 p.m.	Thursday 4.30 p.m.
Males	Monday 5.15 p.m.	Thursday 5.45 p.m.

7. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES.

There are four District Nurses in the Area all of whom act as Midwives.

8. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The main Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary building in Barnstaple with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area.

There is a Blood Bank at the Laboratory.

9. IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the year 105 children received Primary Injections and 156 received Reinforcing Injections.

10. VACCINATION.

The following table shows the number of Vaccinations carried out in their age groups during the year :—

Under 1 year—53, 1-4 years—13, 5-14—9, 15 years and over—11

11. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

12. ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

No cases occurred during the year.

13. FOOD POISONING.

No cases occurred during the year.

14. HOME HELP SERVICE.

There are 6 Home Helps operating in South Molton Borough and Rural District and the scheme is run by the Devon County Council. During the year help was rendered in 28 cases as follows :—Maternity 10 ; Tuberculosis 1 ; Old Age and Chronic Sick 12 ; Others 5.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife. I am glad to note that the service is steadily growing, and it is much appreciated by all concerned.

I desire to thank Mr. Willey and the Sanitary Inspectors for the help they have given me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the year ended 31st December, 1953.

8, East Street,
South Molton.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Loosemore and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my third Annual Report relating to the work carried out during the year 1953.

During the year 3,315 visits and inspections were made including :—

PUBLIC HEALTH.—

Byelaws	452
Camping Sites	19
Disinfections (Rooms)	3
Drains inspected and tested	98
General	167
Infectious Disease Inspections	2
Complaints. Council Houses	171
„ Non „ „	19
Nuisances	16
Refuse Collection and Disposal	61
Schools	4
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	358
Water Supplies	192
Water Samples	50
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	103
BUILDING LICENSING	3
FOOD AND DRUGS—Section 13. Premises	180
Section 14. Premises	9
Meat and Food Inspection	17
FACTORIES—With Power	7
Without Power	9
HOUSING—Council Houses...	744
General Inspections	80
Overcrowding	2
Council Houses in Course of Erection and Housing Sites...	202

Petroleum Regulations	15
Interviews—Owners, Builders, &c.	129
Miscellaneous and Meetings	203
	3315

WATER.

PARISH	No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Bishopsnympton ...	84	295	5	18
Charles (Brayford)	32	112	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	251	879	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	62	217	1	3
North Molton ...	189	662	27	95
Rackenford ...	43	150	—	—
Witheridge ...	167	585	21	75
Chittlehampton ...	98	343	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	34	120	—	—
Georgenympton ...	21	73	—	—
Meshaw	9	32	—	—
Romansleigh ...	11	39	—	—
Satterleigh	4	14	—	—
East Worlington ...	23	81	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	19	66	—	—
Queensnympton ...	1	4	—	—

50 Samples of Private Supplies were taken with the results as shown.

	Chemical	Chemical & Bacteriological	Bacteriological
Satisfactory	4	6	20
Unsatisfactory	1	1	18

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new Sewerage or Sewage Disposal Works were constructed during the year. New Diaphragm Pumps were provided at the North Molton and Witheridge Disposal Works.

The Scheme prepared by your Consulting Engineers for Chittlehampton was submitted to the Ministry and approval was not given but further application is being made. No further progress was made with the proposed Scheme for Chulmleigh.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Refuse Collection Scheme operated satisfactorily and several small alterations were made to the route in order to serve further properties.

The proposed joint use of Bailey Head Meadow with the Borough Council did not materialize and the Borough Council's offer for the use of their existing tip was not accepted. It is hoped to obtain a suitable place for the disposal of refuse at an early date.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Regular visits were paid to the premises in which food is handled and sold and the standard of cleanliness is generally satisfactory, although the standard of construction of some of the older properties leaves much to be desired.

Confirmation of the Food Handling Byelaws was received during May.

Improvements and repairs were carried out at 10 premises as a result of informal action.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

One Slaughterhouse remained on the register as licensed at the end of the year. During the year no notifications of slaughter of animals for sale were received under the Public Health Meat Regulations.

MEAT.

2 cwts. 1 qr. 21½ lbs. of Home Killed Meat was found unfit for human consumption and was surrendered for destruction.

CANNED FOODS SURRENDERED.

	Tins	lbs.	ozs.
Ham	4	29	10
Fruit	31	37	2
Jam	5	7	5
Puddings	2	2	0
Beans	1	1	0
Sardines	2	0	8
Tinned Meats	5	3	12
Corned Beef	1	6	0
Milk	6	3	9

ICE CREAM.

Seven premises remain on the Register for the sale of Ice Cream. There are no premises registered for the manufacture of this commodity.

BAKEHOUSES.

The standard of hygiene in the Bakehouses in the district, with one exception, continues to show improvement.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

16 Inspections were carried out during the year and it was not found necessary to take any actions.

HOUSING.

Four Houses were completed by the Council and six by Private Enterprise. Two units of housing were provided by conversion. Work was in progress on the sites at Chittlehampton and North Molton, and tenders were approved for the erection of houses at Bishopsnympton, Molland and Alswear.

As I noted in my report for 1952, the time for clearing some of the older insanitary houses would appear to be here, and no doubt some guidance will be issued in the near future as to the action that should be taken in order to improve properties that can be made fit, and to demolish houses which have served their useful life and are beyond repair.

Apart from the repairs carried out in Council houses, seven houses were made fit as a result of informal action, two houses made fit after formal action, in default by the Council, and three houses made fit by the owners as a result of formal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

BUILDING LICENSING.

Five applications were received, one brought forward from 1952, and all were granted.

PLANNING AND BYELAWS.

101 Plans were received under the Building Byelaws and one plan was brought forward from 1952, all except one was approved. Of the 73 plans received under the Town and Country Planning Act, together with seven brought forward from 1952, 70 were approved, two refused, one withdrawn and seven carried forward.

W. H. KARSLAKE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.